



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **CHAFEE ANNOUNCES RELEASE OF \$8 MILLION IN FUNDS FOR 3 RI TRANSPORT PROJECTS**

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee today announced that the U.S. Treasury has released a total of \$8,178,441 to the state of Rhode Island to fund three important transportation projects: repairs to the Washington Bridge, construction of the Blackstone River Bikeway, and safety improvements to Interstate 295.

In a letter last year to the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL), Chafee requested that funding be included in the FY 2002 Transportation Appropriations bill for the Washington Bridge and the Blackstone River Bikeway.

Funding for both projects, as well as for Route 295, were included in the bill, which was signed by President George W. Bush on December 18, 2001. Rhode Island will receive \$3,763,620 for the Washington Bridge, \$1.5 million for the Blackstone River Bikeway, and \$2,914,821 for Interstate 295.

### Washington Bridge Repairs (\$3,763,620)

This funding will repair the Washington Bridge – and supporting ramps – which carries Interstate 195 traffic easterly from Providence to East Providence over the Seekonk River. This section of I-195 carries traffic in excess of 90,000 vehicles per day and is the most heavily traveled segment of the interstate system in Rhode Island.

### Blackstone River Bikeway (\$1.5 million)

This funding will ensure the continued construction of the Blackstone River Bikeway, an eighteen-mile bicycle and pedestrian facility along the Blackstone River and the original route of the Blackstone River Canal between Providence and Woonsocket. This beautiful recreational facility connects historic sites, municipal centers, state and local parks, recreational facilities, and scenic locations within the federally designated John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. Specifically, these funds will assist the construction of Segment 4A, a one mile section from Cumberland to Lincoln, which includes the construction of the Lonsdale Marsh Boardwalk

Funding is also being released to enable the performance of safety improvements along Interstate 295 (\$2,914,821).

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